

**Town of Eastham Forest Advisory Committee**  
**June 2, 2020**  
**Amended Minutes**

A note to members:

My apologies: the meeting notes are missing details and nuances from the meeting. Without a recording I missed a good deal. Perhaps as we discuss the minutes through your additions and corrections I can revise them. In addition Henry Lind was gracious enough to provide a summary of the details of his presentation. Henry has been spear heading a project aimed at one of the committees goal's; to provide a detailed map and history of 1651 Friends plantings through the years. He has been working diligently on creating a reliable way, using GIS co-ordinates, to locate plant materials that have been planted so that we can proceed with descriptions of plant conditions, methods used in planting, and the current condition of the plant. His update is included below.

Members present: Michael Harnett-Chair, Steve Gulrich,  
Henry Lynn, Janet Benjamins, Saul Fisher

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM  
Minutes from February 19, 2019 were approved unanimously  
with no changes

Members of the Committee welcomed our new member  
Janet Benjamins and introductions were made by members including their  
background and history with the committee

**1651 Friends Report : Steve Gulrich**

- Canceled spring planting of Black Huckleberry
- Plan to combine Black Cherry and Beck Huckleberry planed for this coming fall should we be able to get these species and dependent on the Covid situation as well.
- A plan regarding enlisting volunteers from the Friend's group to help with clearing and maintenance.
- Of the 15 Sassafras planted several years ago 5 remain and they have been caged and are surviving.

- Of the Swamp Azalia, and Beech Plum, none have survived. While some of the Shad may have survived.
- Janet asked about how we understand what vegetation was present in 1651. Mike referenced literature to that recorded history of species and vegetation from the 1600's. He also spoke of our Committee's history overtime utilizing consultants to advise about plant selection

### **Henry Lind Forrest 1651 GIS update**

A brief narrative overview of the recent progress that has been made on mapping the plantings follows:

Due to the CV19 mandatory stay at home directive during the past several months the expeditions into the field have been somewhat limited. The 'attractive nuisance' of an individual wearing a hat with a GPS device attached carrying a notebook and peering into the trees was calculated to invite too many random encounters. In addition social distancing among our colleagues would be difficult so I made the decision to do solo investigations at times when the best guess was few inquiries by passers by.

The array of satellites was favorable for good accuracy on a couple of mornings so the search was on to complete several unanswered questions from our last expedition in January. Specifically, finding the data points which had been logged was a priority as well as locating other species which have been noted but not evident. The hope was that the Spring blooming would be a giveaway to finding the plants such as beach plum and shad.

The first focus was the shad plantings around the red maples and there were zero evident with visual sightings. One exception was a rebar with tag that had been pulled up and discarded along a social trail. The maples are easily located and the software allows for finding the different locations within a few feet.

Next, the blueberries on the opposite side of that trail proved to be inconsistent. A large pine tree had dropped in the middle section but several plantings on either side were in good shape although only a couple were setting fruit.

No beach plums were evident at either location near the mockernut or the parking lot. However, several of the mockernuts are leafing out and while not huge do appear healthy.

A walk along the trail near Great Pond looking for shad or blueberry was hopeless.

The inability to find the rebar stakes became the major stumbling block for finding Nemo but we (the Eastham Conservation Foundation) are working jointly with the Orleans Conservation Trust and share a Land Manager part time position. I was describing the 1651 project to him at one point and one of their objectives is to locate corner bounds for the various properties but he was having difficulty with the gps on his phone locating them. To assist in that effort I explained about the Garmin Glo and he explained about a super sensitive metal detector which they own. "Let's make a deal".

By using the Garmin he was able to find many of the bounds that were obscured with vegetation and then pin them down with the metal detector. We then traded equipment and I used the \$700 Shondstedt device together with Garmin and it was very productive. Alex also brought along his personal metal detector which is made by White's - it was good but not as sensitive as the Shondstedt.

The results are that the entire population of swamp azalea and shad is deceased but many of the IDs have been located and mapped. I also located an inkberry ID – those were planted in 2008 and again in 2013. All of the tags have been left in place and mapped.

The searching for ID tags on beach plums around the mockernuts revealed several with only one living plant.

The lessons learned are that the rebar tags are critical to final locations and a good metal detector will make that much more productive. We've used Steve's in the past so a side by side comparison will be a good next step. Otherwise I believe we can continue to share equipment with OCT.

Having two person teams will make things more efficient with the guidelines in effect as we go forward. IMHO finding the metal tags is an essential part of the process.

Having personal knowledge of where some of the plantings should be located by reason of being involved with the planting will also increase efficiency.

Some of these plantings should be healthy so evaluating what went wrong with total losses will be the next challenge.

In short, this methodology is working and the effort will continue.

A map will be available shortly indicating the results.

## **Invasive Species**

- Steve and Mike walked Wiley Park recently and expressed concerned about the amount of Greenbrier present.
- They recommend clearing the Greenbrier before poison ivy appears.

## **Meeting adjourned**

3:05

## **Next meeting**

Time: Oct 6, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82940048154?pwd=T2FDa1NjNoVpZ3dNckNXZHE3UmtzdZ09>

Meeting ID: 829 4004 8154

Passcode: 154171

Respectfully submitted,  
Saul Fisher, Acting Clerk